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CLAIMS:

What is claimed is:

- 1 1. A method in a data processing system for customizing
2 a graphical user interface of an application on a data
3 processing system, the method comprising:
4 determining a first customization format;
5 determining a second customization format; and
6 initiating customization of the graphical user
7 interface by automatically switching between the first
8 customization format and the second customization format.

 - 1 2. The method in claim 1, wherein the first
2 customization format is a macro-based customization
3 format.

 - 1 3. The method in claim 1, wherein the second
2 customization format is a screen by screen customization
3 format.

 - 1 4. The method of claim 1, wherein the first
2 customization format and the second customization format
3 maintains continuous interaction with the application.

 - 1 5. The method in claim 1, wherein customization of the
2 graphical user interface is initiated by the first
3 customization format and further comprising:
4 transferring control of the customization of the
5 graphical user interface to the first customization
6 format.

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1 6. The method of claim 2, wherein initiating
2 customization of the graphical user interface is sent to
3 a predefined markup.

1 7. The method of claim 1, further comprising:
2 responsive to completion of customization of the
3 graphical user interface, displaying the graphical user
4 interface based on the customization.

1 8. The method on claim 1, wherein if a first format and
2 a second format cannot be determined, initiating
3 customization of the graphical user interface by
4 automatically switching to a default customization
5 format.

1 9. A method in a data processing system for customizing
2 a graphical user interface of a host application,
3 comprising a plurality of screens, on a data processing
4 system, the method comprising:

5 retrieving a customization format from a plurality
6 of customization formats;

7 determining if the retrieved customization format
8 recognizes a host application screen among the plurality
9 of host application screens; and

10 responsive to the retrieved macro recognizing the
11 host application screen, executing the retrieved macro to
12 customize the graphical user interface.

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- 1 10. The method of claim 9, wherein the customization
2 format is at least one of a macro-based customization
3 format and a screen by screen customization format.
- 1 11. The method of claim 9, further comprising:
2 responsive to the retrieved customization format not
3 recognizing the host application screen, exiting the
4 retrieved customization format;
5 matching the retrieved customization format to
6 customization format entry points; and
7 responsive to the retrieved customization format
8 matching a customization entry point, reentering the
9 retrieved customization format.
- 1 12. The method of claim 9, further comprising:
2 determining whether the retrieved customization
3 format execution is complete; and
4 responsive to completion of the execution of the
5 retrieved customization format, requesting another
6 customization format.
- 1 13. The method of claim 9, further comprising:
2 detecting errors within the retrieved customization
3 format;
4 determining if an error handling logic exists within
5 the data processing system; and
6 responsive to error handling logic existing within
7 the data processing system, activating the error handling
8 logic.

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1 14. A method in a data processing system for customizing
2 a graphical user interface of a host application on a
3 data processing system, the method comprising:

4 establishing a plurality of customization format
5 entry points;

6 matching a current screen within the host
7 application to a first customization format entry point
8 from the plurality of customization entry points; and

9 responsive to matching a current screen within the
10 host application to a first customization format entry
11 point from the plurality of customization entry points,
12 executing the first customization format based on the
13 matching.

1 15. The method of claim 14, further comprising:

2 responsive to not matching a current screen within
3 the host application to a first customization format
4 entry point from the plurality of customization entry
5 points, processing the current screen based on user
6 customization input.

1 16. The method of claim 14, further comprising:

2 responsive to not matching a current screen within
3 the host application to a first customization format
4 entry point from the plurality of customization entry
5 points, processing the current screen based on default
6 criteria.

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1 17. A system in a data processing system for customizing
2 a graphical user interface of an application on a data
3 processing system, comprising:

4 determining means for determining a first
5 customization format;

6 determining means for determining a second
7 customization format; and

8 initiating means for initiating customization of the
9 graphical user interface by automatically switching
10 between the first customization format and the second
11 customization format.

1 18. The system of claim 17, wherein the first
2 customization format is a macro-based customization
3 format.

1 19. The system of claim 17, wherein the second
2 customization format is a screen by screen customization
3 format.

1 20. The system of claim 17, wherein the first
2 customization format and the second customization format
3 maintains continuous interaction with the application.

1 21. The system of claim 17, wherein customization of the
2 graphical user interface is initiated by the first
3 customization format and further comprising:

4 transferring means for transferring control of the
5 customization of the graphical user interface to the
6 first customization format.

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1 22. The system of claim 18, wherein initiating
2 customization of the graphical user interface is sent to
3 a predefined markup.

1 23. The system of claim 17, further comprising:
2 displaying means, responsive to completion of
3 customization of the graphical user interface, for
4 displaying the graphical user interface based on the
5 customization.

1 24. The system of claim 17, wherein if a first format
2 and a second format cannot be determined, initiating
3 customization of the graphical user interface by
4 automatically switching to a default customization
5 format.

1 25. A system in a data processing system for customizing
2 a graphical user interface of a host application,
3 comprising a plurality of screens, on a data processing
4 system, comprising:

5 retrieving means for retrieving a customization
6 format from a plurality of customization formats;

7 determining means for determining if the retrieved
8 customization format recognizes a host application screen
9 among the plurality of host application screens; and

10 executing means, responsive to the retrieved macro
11 recognizing the host application screen, for executing
12 the retrieved macro to customize the graphical user
13 interface.

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1 26. The system of claim 25, wherein the customization
2 format is at least one of a macro-based customization
3 format and a screen by screen customization format.

1 27. The system of claim 25, further comprising:
2 3 exiting means, responsive to the retrieved
3 customization format not recognizing the host application
4 screen, for exiting the retrieved customization format;

5 6 matching means for matching the retrieved
6 customization format to customization format entry
7 points; and

8 9 reentering means, responsive to the retrieved
9 customization format matching a customization entry
10 point, for reentering the retrieved customization format.

1 28. The system of claim 25, further comprising:
2 3 determining means for determining whether the
3 retrieved customization format execution is complete; and
4 5 requesting means, responsive to completion of the
5 execution of the retrieved customization format, for
6 requesting another customization format.

1 29. The method of claim 25, further comprising:
2 3 detecting means for detecting errors within the
3 retrieved customization format;
4 5 determining means for determining if an error
5 handling logic exists within the data processing system;
6 and

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activating means, responsive to error handling logic existing within the data processing system, for activating the error handling logic.

30. A system in a data processing system for customizing a graphical user interface of a host application on a data processing system, comprising:

establishing means for establishing a plurality of customization format entry points;

matching means for matching a current screen within the host application to a first customization format entry point from the plurality of customization entry points; and

executing means, responsive to matching a current screen within the host application to a first customization format entry point from the plurality of customization entry points, for executing the first customization format based on the matching.

31. The system of claim 30, further comprising:

processing means, responsive to not matching a current screen within the host application to a first customization format entry point from the plurality of customization entry points, for processing the current screen based on user customization input.

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- 1 32. The method of claim 30, further comprising:
2 processing means, responsive to not matching a
3 current screen within the host application to a first
4 customization format entry point from the plurality of
5 customization entry points, for processing the current
6 screen based on default criteria.
- 1 33. A computer program product in a computer-readable
2 medium for use in a data processing system for
3 customizing a graphical user interface of an application
4 on a data processing system, comprising:
5 instructions for determining a first customization
6 format;
7 instructions for determining a second customization
8 format; and
9 instructions for initiating customization of the
10 graphical user interface by automatically switching
11 between the first customization format and the second
12 customization format.
- 1 34. The computer program product of claim 33, wherein
2 the first customization format is a macro-based
3 customization format.
- 1 35. The computer program product of claim 33, wherein
2 the second customization format is a screen by screen
3 customization format.

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1 36. The computer program product of claim 33, wherein
2 customization of the graphical user interface is
3 initiated by the first customization format and further
4 comprising:

5 instructions for transferring control of the
6 customization of the graphical user interface to the
7 first customization format.

1 37. The computer program product of claim 33, further
2 comprising:

3 instructions for, responsive to completion of
4 customization of the graphical user interface, displaying
5 the graphical user interface based on the customization.

1 38. A computer program product in a computer-readable
2 medium for use in a data processing system for
3 customizing a graphical user interface of a host
4 application, comprising a plurality of screens, on a data
5 processing system, comprising:

6 instructions for retrieving a customization format
7 from a plurality of customization formats;

8 instructions for determining if the retrieved
9 customization format recognizes a host application screen
10 among the plurality of host application screens; and

11 instructions for, responsive to the retrieved macro
12 recognizing the host application screen, executing the
13 retrieved macro to customize the graphical user
14 interface.

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1 39. The computer program product of claim 38, wherein
2 the customization format is at least one of a macro-based
3 customization format and a screen by screen customization
4 format.

1 40. A computer program product in a computer-readable
2 medium for customizing a graphical user interface of a
3 host application on a data processing system, comprising:

4 instructions for establishing a plurality of
5 customization format entry points;

6 instructions for matching a current screen within
7 the host application to a first customization format
8 entry point from the plurality of customization entry
9 points; and

10 instructions for, responsive to matching a current
11 screen within the host application to a first
12 customization format entry point from the plurality of
13 customization entry points, executing the first
14 customization format based on the matching.

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